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November 1, 2007

Jodi Tymeson

1524 Highway 169

Winterset, IA 50273

Dear Ms. Tymeson:

In response to the recent publicity regarding Iowa's impending workforce shortages, I would like to familiarize you with a 12-year old program sponsored jointly by the Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) and the Stanley Foundation that could serve as a resource to alleviate some of the current and anticipated workforce shortages.

The Iowa International Fellows Program is a leadership training program for selected international and U.S. students from Iowa's colleges and universities. This year, 66 students are participating in the program. The students represent 31 different countries ranging from Nepal to Vietnam. Over 65% are majoring in fields such as engineering, science, math, and economics. Many are interested in remaining in Iowa upon completion of their degree programs and are requesting training in job seeking skills, resume development, business etiquette, and in making professional contacts.

Through this on-going program, ICIU has an already established network with colleges and universities throughout the state that includes not only international study offices but student advisors and other faculty members who understand the value international students bring to the state. At the same time, we also have an already established network of Iowa's international corporations through our international visitors programs, corporate and professional services, and our interpretation and translation services. Drawing on the strength and experience built through our 70 years of history as a non-profit organization in Iowa, ICIU is in an ideal situation to bring together degreed graduates and the business community.

Members of ICIU's board of directors and I am interested in meeting with you to discuss possible private/public partnership opportunities that would support your efforts to build Iowa's workforce. I look forward to your response.

Thanks much.

Judy Winkelpleck